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PRESIDENT LAUDS CIA WORKERS

McLEAN, VA.

President Reagan told employees of the Central Intelligence Agency today that their work, and the work of director William Casey, "have been an inspiration to your fellow Americans and people everywhere."

The president, attending groundbreaking ceremonies for an addition to the CIA headquarters in this Virginia suburb, made no mention of a new House subcommittee report that charges a crime was committed in the way his 1980 campaign obtained Jimmy Carter's briefing papers.

The report said evidence indicates the materials entered the campaign "through its director, William J. Casey." Casey has said he does not recall seeing the documents or giving them to anyone.

Reagan used a silver shovel to turn over dirt for a 1.1 million square foot addition, which will double the size of the CIA headquarters.

"When historians look back on all of this," Reagan said, "I'm sure they will conclude that no one has played a more important role in this exciting new era than all of you here in CIA."

"Your work, the work of your director, the other top officials have been an inspiration to your fellow Americans and to people everywhere."

Casey refused to talk to reporters.

Asked about the refusal, agency spokesman Chuck Wilson said, "Mr. Casey obviously is here on this great day for the groundbreaking ceremony and is not prepared to discuss other issues."

Asked if Reagan's visit were a demonstration of support for Casey and the agency, Wilson replied, "I think it's a great show of support for the CIA. Mr. Casey is a big part of the CIA."